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13 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Task Force 16

SUBJECT: Contribution to Task Force 16 Study

MAP LIBRARY DIVISION, ORR

A. The Map Library Division is basically a reference service.

B. It is recommended that the Map Library Division, although basically a reference service, should remain an integral part of the Geographic Research Area, ORR. The reasons for this conclusion are the following:

1. The Map Library is an integral component of the Geographic Research Area, with well-established, close working relationships with the other ORR divisions. These include career progression of employees in the geographic field, and broad use of competent geographers for Map Library work in giving research and compilation support, supporting the procurement activities and in providing data on numerous subjects relative to map reference work. For the geographic and cartographic activities, the Map Library Division provides the essential tools of geographic and cartographic work. Their procurement, processing, and availability must be primarily responsive to the needs of these principal users. Separation of the Map Library from the Geographic Research Area would seriously damage an effectively operating, well-rounded geographic intelligence effort.

2. The Map Library Division is correctly located organizationally in that it is directly associated with the cartographic and geographic producing components. It has been found, through experience, that policy direction of a map reference facility must be thoroughly coordinated and integrated with the needs of geographic and cartographic work. Precedent for this type of organizational location is found in the Army Map Service, the Hydrographic Office, the Aeronautical Chart & Information Center, the Geological Survey, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Board on Geographic Names. The Coast and Geodetic Survey in recent years actually decentralized library facilities in order to associate the map facility with the cartographic producing unit.

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3. Under the Geographic Research Area, the Map Library Division has grown, developed, and become the best special subject map library known to exist anywhere in the world and has built an enviable record of satisfactory servicing of researchers.


4. The Geographic Research Area is the major consumer of Map Library services.

5. The proposed location of the Map Library Division in the new building -- where it will be physically adjacent to the OCR reference services -- will not only meet the recommendations of the consultants but, it is estimated, will also treble or quadruple Map Library business. Physical adjacency and a single reference point can be accomplished without changing organizational alignment.

6. The administration of OCR has nothing positive to offer relative to the functioning of the Map Library as a part of the organization of the central reference service. The maximum gain for all concerned is to be found in the retention of the numerous demonstrated advantages inherent in organizational association of the Map Library Division with the Geographic Research Area. These advantages have been demonstrated during the past eleven years in the Agency. There is every reason to believe that the gain of additional opportunities for servicing that will result from physical adjacency in the new building will fulfill all of the requirements of intelligence researchers and other consumers for map services within the concept of a central reference point.

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ORR/Ch/G:JAB:jmc/535(13 Mar 1958)